Textbook Alternatives and Digital Curriculum

21st Century Learning Lab Webinar
September 23, 2010

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21ˢᵗ Century Learning Lab

- A new communication channel which will be used to explore innovations in educational technology and to showcase the progress that Indiana schools are making in bringing such innovations to the classroom.

- Podcasts, webinars, DOE lunch and learns, blogs and discussions in the Learning Connection.

- http://pod.doe.in.gov/groups/21stcenturylearninglab/

Setting the Stage

- National Picture

- Indiana—state adoption, parents pay, state subsidizes costs for students on F/R lunch.

- State Board Textbook Waiver

  - http://www.doe.in.gov/opd/textbook/docs/TextbookFlexibility020609f.pdf

- Guidance to schools

  - http://www.doe.in.gov/opd/textbook/docs/TextbookFAQsFinal090309.pdf

- Support for Schools

  - Classroom Innovation Grants (http://www.doe.in.gov/olt/classroominnovationgrants.html)

  - Collecting examples of innovation

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Today's Participants

- Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation
    - Bill Jensen, Mike Jamerson, Libby Arthur
- Indianapolis Public Schools
    - Jerry McLeish
- Delphi Community School Corporation
    - Barry Stone, Brian Tonsoni

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Social Studies Department Pioneers Digital Format

Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation- Columbus, Indiana

- Bill Jensen – Director of Secondary Education

- Mike Jamerson – Director of Technology

- Libby Arthur – Social Studies Chairwoman Columbus North High School and Northside Middle School

BCSC Instructional Strategies

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and differentiated instruction

- Variety of instructional pathways

- Students as life-long learners and effective contributors to the 21st century community

The Vision

- 2008 – Social Studies Textbook Adoption
    - Focus on what / how to teach not which textbook to choose
    - Dissatisfaction with existing textbooks
    - Waiver/Opportunity to use alternative materials, specifically digital resources and computers
- Summer 2009 – Professional Development / Curriculum Development
    - Construction of the BCSC Curriculum Loft
    - Professional development
        - Design and development of unit launcher concept
        - Creation of course unit launchers by teachers
- Fall 2009 – Implementation for Social Studies at grades 7-12
    - BCSC Curriculum Loft – Digital platform that provides central storage for unit launchers and unit materials- available to all stakeholders
    - Acquisition of digital resources including netTrekker and Learn360
    - Use of netbooks to extend existing computer labs into classrooms

Execution

- Communication
  - Presentation to School Board as part of textbook adoption process
  - Rollout, parent communication, student communication
- Financing
  - Allocation of expenses for netTrekker, Curriculum Loft and Exam View to Social Studies classes, professional development
  - Purchase of projectors through CPF

Instructional Impact

- Students
  - Much more current and vibrant curriculum
  - One less textbook to carry around
  - Available anywhere, anytime
  - Encourages collegial learning environment
  - Easier to find and use reliable & safe information
- Teachers
  - Able to easily find and incorporate information and materials that support differentiated instruction
  - Sustains student focus
  - Common understanding of lesson objectives
- Community
  - Environmentally friendly
  - Maintains or reduces cost to families
  - Prepares students to be productive 21st century citizens

Results to Date

- Student Learning
  - Digital resources are consistent with BCSC's UDL vision
  - Significant improvement in middle school social studies scores over 2008.
- Acceptance
  - Students are more engaged and appreciate the reduction in textbook weight
  - Teachers acceptance is dependent on over-all comfort level with technology

Lessons Learned

- There is a spectrum of professional readiness
- Some students still prefer using paper copies
- Technology infrastructure is vital
  - Improved wireless access
  - 1-to-1 computing
  - Network storage
  - Strategies for technology support

Next Steps…

- Expand the use of digital resources across the curriculum
  - netTrekker for elementary students
  - BrainPop at all grade levels
- Implementation of student portfolios via netTrekker
- Continued professional development
- Evaluation of instructional impact and identification of areas for improvement

DISCOVER

THE NEW

IPS

www.ips.k12.in.us

Moving Beyond the Textbook: Partnership of IPS and Discovery Education

Presenter: Gerald (Jerry) McLeish, Ed. D.
Director of K-12 Social Studies and World Languages

- **Need: to empower teachers to engage 21st Century learners to improve achievement; even the playing field for low income urban learners**

- **Opportunity: Indiana DOE instituted waiver process in 2009 to use digital curriculum in lieu of traditional 6 year textbook adoption process**

IPS – Discovery Education Partnership
3-Year Pilot in Social Studies, cont.

- 11 Schools – Grades 5, 7, 8, 9, 11

- 42 Teachers participating -- Teacher Association agreed to support Pilot

- Professional development ongoing for 3 years

- District Vision on Technology – District Technology Plan

- 2010-11: All secondary students to have 1:1 netbooks or laptops

- District IT to support or host over 200 software applications

Rollout of Pilot

- 11 schools identified– Grades 5, 7, 8, 9, 11

- Pilot funded through textbook rental fund*

- All social studies teachers identified to participate

- Technology assessment conducted for implementation (started with minimum)

- Summer webinar training from DE held for administrators

- Professional development plan established and approved; teachers participated in 7 release days during school year

- Pilot elements were aligned with District Technology Plan

- All secondary students to have 1:1 netbooks or laptops; Promethean and SmartBoard in each secondary school; district IT to support or host over 200 software applications

DATA (Year 1)

• Anectodal data shows students became more active in learning; achievement incrementally better as teachers used digital curriculum and tools

• ISTEP -- Students in several of 5th and 7th grade teachers classes achieved at higher rate than average district improvement rate

• Most teachers excited about this pilot opportunity given that the district is moving in the direction of 1:1 technology for students

WHAT WE LEARNED

• Start the planning at least a year prior to implementation

• Technology needs to be readily available at start of initiative

• Communication among administrators, departments, and participating staff must be ongoing

WHAT'S NEXT

- **Expansion**

- **Funding**

- **Technology**

- **Future textbook adoptions**

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Delphi Community High School

- Barry Stone – High School Principal
- Brian Tonsoni –

  Social Studies Teacher, US History and Economics

  Recognized by Purdue University as Cooperative Teacher of the Year for his work with Student Teachers

- Only one thing affects student achievement, instruction

What we did – Mr. Stone

- DCSC school goal to be #1 academically in the state
- Technology to enhance the goal would include a "1 to 1" laptop initiative
- Technology director and I formulated a plan to be "1 to 1" by 2011-12 school year and presented to superintendent
- Plan includes alternative textbooks in Social Studies
- Last year Social Studies classrooms equipped with projector, sound system, QOMO pad (hand held smart board), 30 Acer Netbooks, and Cart
- Now all DCSC teachers have laptops with projectors and smartboards or QOMO pads. Campus is wireless with Fiber internet access
- DCSC has laptops/netbooks 1 to 1 grades 2 – 9
- All Teachers and Students have nettrekker and echalk

How we did it – Mr. Tonsoni

- Dive in head first, or really I was pushed!!!

- Standard based lesson planning

- Created an outline from state standards on subjects for instruction – syllabus

- Using online resources such as nettrekker and google to research material for students to read or use in class

- Formulate lesson plan based on topic, research material found, and technology available in the classroom

- Example of classroom –

    pod cast, photo story, or powerpoint

Our results – Mr. Tonsoni

- Student engagement has increased for the struggling learners

- Communication has increased between student and teacher – Email and e-chalk

- Student to student communication has increased

- Increased opportunity to meet IEP's with technology, ie. Electronic notes for immediate printing

- Technology brings the lessons to life --

- Energized the teacher

What's next? – Mr. Stone

- We did not adopt math textbooks – Algebra I, 50% of Algebra II, and all of Geometry are currently using ALEKS program for math at the High School

- New Science Facility will be completed to start in fall of 2011-2012 school year with high tech classroom

- Currently testing curriculum without textbooks using Vernier software and equipment and other online resources

Questions

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Continue the Conversation

- Digital Curriculum and Textbook Alternatives Community in the Learning Connection

- https://learningconnection.doe.in.gov/UserGroup/GroupDetail.aspx?gid=212

Students' desires for the features and functionality of online textbooks

Three themes emerge from the data:

- Students want interactivity and relevancy

- They want tools to facilitate collaboration

- They want ways to personalize learning

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Students want their online textbooks to have tools that facilitate collaboration
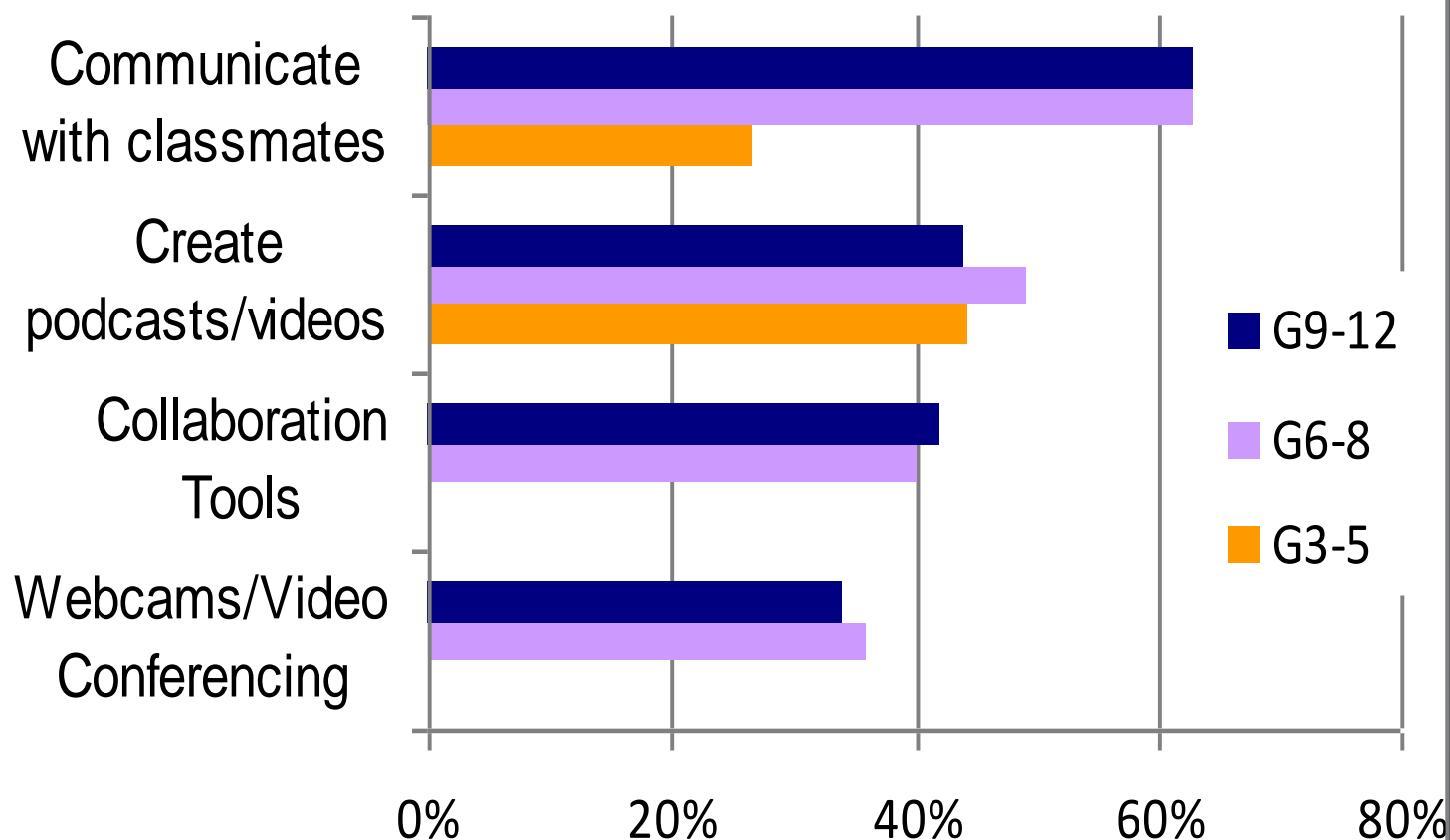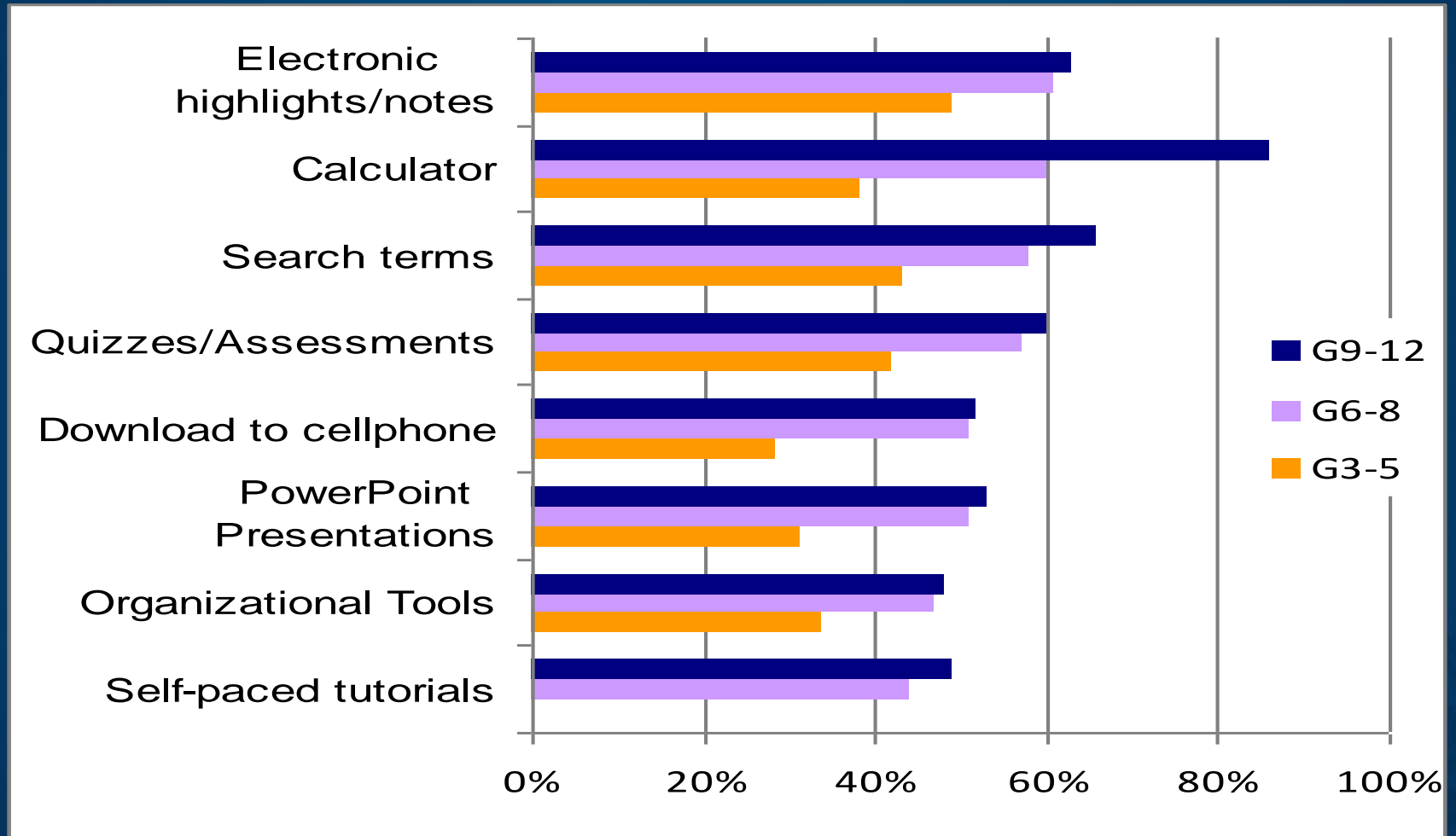

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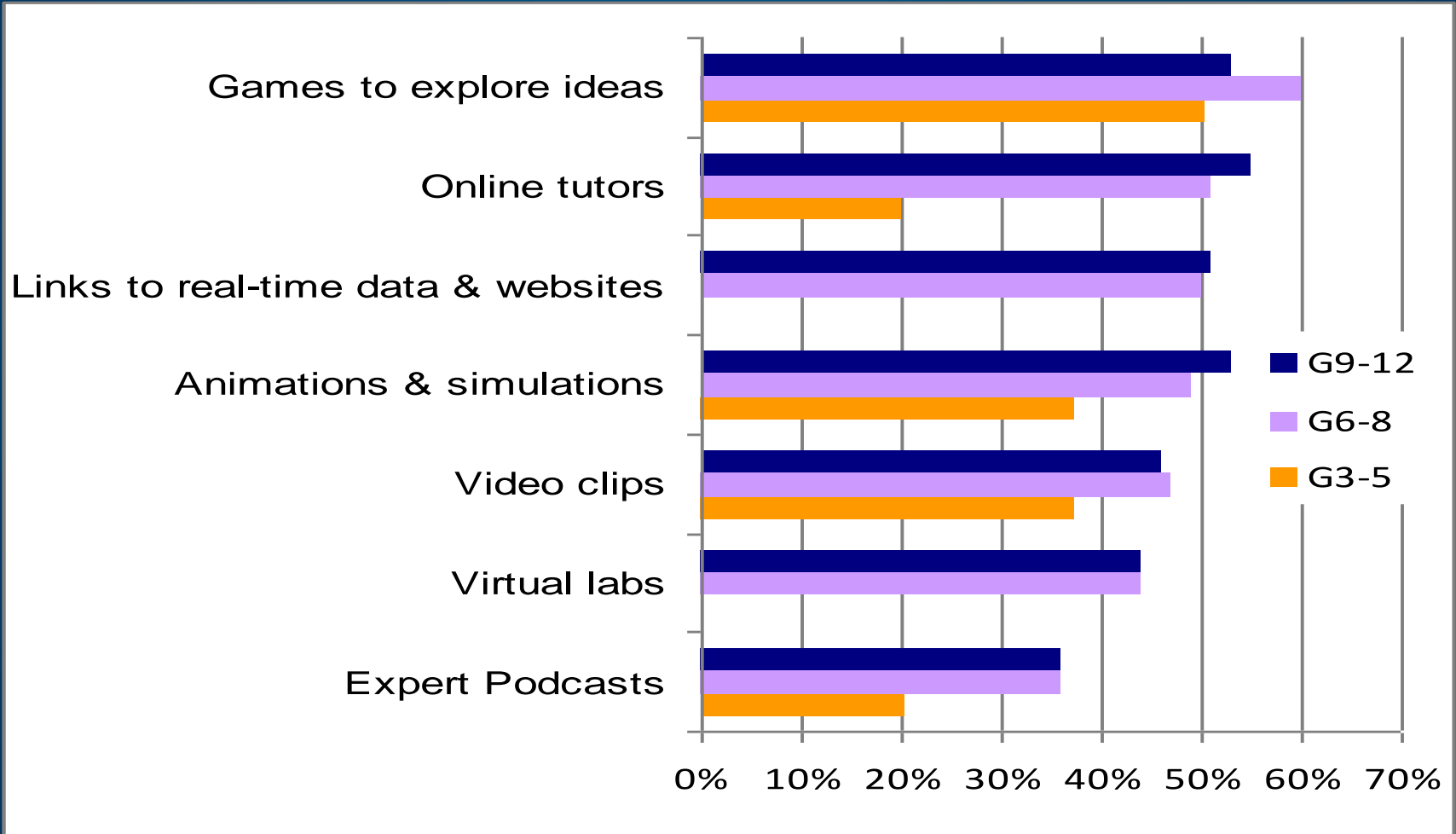Students want to use their digital textbooks to personalize learning

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Students want their online textbooks to be interactive and relevant

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